Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 TRSE-00 /079 R

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 117908

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: REVISED TALKING POINTS FOR USE WITH SOUTH AFRICANS

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REF: USUN 1848

1. ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT CONTACT GROUP APPROACH TO SOUTH AFRICANS SHOULD BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WE HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS REGARDING TALKING POINTS REFTEL. SPECIFICALLY, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE

SOUTH AFRICANS MAY READ THE TALKING POINTS AS CONTAINING THREATS OF REPRISAL, AND IN VIEW OF THE WELL-KNOWN AFRIKAANER RESPONSE WHEN HE BELIEVES HE IS BEING THREATENED BY OUTSIDERS, WE WONDER WHETHER THIS IS THE BEST APPROACH AT THIS TIME.

2. WITH THIS CONSIDERATION IN MIND, WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING MINOR CHANGES IN THE TALKING POINTS:

A) IN THE SECOND TALKING POINT WE SUGGEST THAT THE LAST SENTENCE BE REVISED TO READ "NO MATTER WHAT SHORT-TERM MILITARY ADVANTAGE THIS MAY HAVE GAINED FOR YOU, THE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION

OF CONFLICTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA ARE VERY GRAVE INDEED.

B) IN THE THIRD TALKING POINT WE SUGGEST THAT THE LAST SENTENCE BE REVISED TO READ "IT ALSO REFLECTED OUR VIEW THAT A REPETITION OF THIS ATTACK OR OTHER POTENTIAL ACTIONS COULD CREATE A SITUATION WITH SERIOUS RISKS FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND THE FUTURE OF NAMIBIA.

C) IN THE FOURTH TALKING POINT WE SUGGEST THAT THE NEXT TO LAST SENTENCE BE REVISED THROUGH THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING WORDS "AND UNHELPFUL TO PRESS US PUBLICLY ON THIS MATTER."

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